

# HATCHERY HOME

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nearly four years. Lyerly supervises the girls' daily activities including meal preparation, household chores, afterschool activities, group outings, and all other aspects of their lives.

"It's very difficult sometimes," Lyerly said. "Some of these girls came here from very tragic backgrounds and were carrying some very real anger. Some were violently aggressive. But what makes the Hatchery Home successful is that - if given half a chance - we can help these girls work through these behaviors.

"Their anger is very real and has to be dealt with. We don't just sweep it under the rug and make them sit in a corner all day. We try to help them understand why they are angry and why they need to get past it."

At the same time, Lyerly said, The girls are taught life skills that will help them when they leave the home to go out on their own.

Another staff member, Liz Craven, keeps the home going while the girls are at school. She is usually the one to attend parent-teacher conferences and keeps in close contact with the girls' teachers.

"We don't want these girls to grow up carrying around a lot of

emotional baggage. We try to be firm and teach them self discipline. It's easy enough for us to give them discipline, but we won't always be around. They have to learn to think and act responsibly for themselves," Craven said.

This is a lesson Rebecca Petrie, 18, learned while she was living in the home. Rebecca is now working and attending college and still living on the life-lessons she learned while in the Hatchery Home.

"I've been in a lot of foster homes," Rebecca said, "but this one was my favorite. They always treated us good. They stopped what they were doing to talk to us. They gave me love."

Brandi George, 19, lived in the home for about one and a half years. She said the lessons she learned in the home changed her whole attitude.

Brandi said she ran away once but regretted it deeply. She was eventually returned to the home. "My advice to someone who thought they wanted to run away would be to think about it. Where would you go? How would you eat? Who would care about you? Here (Hatchery Home) you have someone who not only cares about you, but they care about your future, too," Brandi

said.

Tina Moore, 18, was a resident for about a year. "When I left I wanted to come back," Tina said. "They made it comfortable for me."

Tina said that another plus was that the Home was located in the black community. "You could be around your own people. That was important to me," she said.

Tina Williams, 19, lived in the home for three years and is presently training with the Metro Police Department. "I learned to depend on myself," Williams said. "I knew what I wanted to do with my life, but I guess I needed direction. I guess I learned that God has something a little more in store for me."

Oats said foster care is a challenge at it's worst. "You're working with young people who are angry about their situation and need someone to blame. The most difficult task at hand is to convince them we are not the enemy. It is our responsibility and desire to do what is in their best interest," Oats said.

"Often that requires discipline. There are a few young people who embrace it. Yet, without it, you continue to lose them to self-destructive behav-

ior. Our challenge is to tell them often enough, correct them immediately, hug them quickly, listen attentively, decide fairly, encourage daily, and pray always for God's intervention," she said.

Oats went on to say that the hardest things for those who work with troubled youth is to see them leave when there is so much to be accomplished.

"Their lives are like roller coasters... in and out of homes. It would be great if they could find a place that says 'home'."

"We're just a small staff here. We're not a big corporation or anything like that. But we do our best to instill in these girls a sense of self-worth and give them the concern, affection and discipline they need. Looking at these young ladies now, I think we've done O.K.," Oats said.

The Hatchery Home is a privately-funded facility and depends largely on contributions from private corporations and

## BLACK HISTORY CONTEST WINNER



Sentinel-Voice Publisher, Lee Brown, presents prize to "Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Black History Contest" winner, Jollette Goins. Mrs. Goins will enjoy dinner for two at Gates Bar-B-Q for correctly identifying the 12 influential African-Americans shown throughout Black History Month. Photo by Bill Lee

citizens.

For more information on the Hatchery Home for Children or to make a donation write The Hatchery Home for Children, 333 Zoea Ave., North Las Vegas, NV., 89030, or call (702) 642-2075.

Citizens who are presently contributing to United Way through payroll deduction and would like to assist this home financially, please indicate by including the Hatchery Home as the charity of your choice on your contributors' card.

## GRAND RE-OPENING OF NEVADA BUSINESS SERVICES, NUCLEUS PLAZA

LAS VEGAS - City Councilman Frank Hawkins, chairman of the Job Training Board, has announced that the, **NEVADA BUSINESS SERVICES OFFICES**, located in the Nucleus Plaza at H and Owens Street, will have their **GRAND RE-OPENING** on Monday, March 22, 1993, at 10:00 a.m. at the newly constructed facility. The public is invited; refreshments will be served.

In commenting on this significant event, Councilman Hawkins stated: "Like Phoenix rising from the ashes renewing itself, Nevada Business Services has risen from the ashes to renew itself in service and commitment to the West Las Vegas community and others it serves.

Mr. David Hicks, President of Nevada Business Services, indicated that: "Even though the offices of NBS have been absent from the community as a result of the devastating fire in May 1992, NBS never lost its commitment and resolve to the residents of the West Las Vegas community and other people it serves. In fact, NBS has been operating from as many as five different temporary locations throughout the Las Vegas Val-

ley during the rebuilding period in order to maintain the high level of professional commitment and service we have for our clients."

Las Vegas Mayor Jan Laverty-Jones commented that: "The rebuilding of the Nucleus Plaza and the re-opening of the Nevada Business Services continues to demonstrate the high level of commitment the City of Las Vegas has in renewing, improving and providing a higher level of community service and job opportunity for the economically displaced residents of the West Las Vegas community and others we serve."

Councilman Hawkins concluded by stating: "We want to mark March 22, 1993 as a significant day for the new Grand

Re-opening of the Nevada Business Services and Nucleus plaza. We also want the community to know that no matter what has happened in the past, the tremendous services and resources provided by and through the Job Training Board, The Private Industry Council, and Nevada Business Services are committed to providing the essential programs of training and employment opportunity critical to the community."

For more information on the Grand Re-opening of the Nevada Business Services located in the Nucleus Plaza at H and Owens Street, on March 22, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., please call Ms. Carol St. James, Vice President of Operations for Nevada Business Services at 384-8111.

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